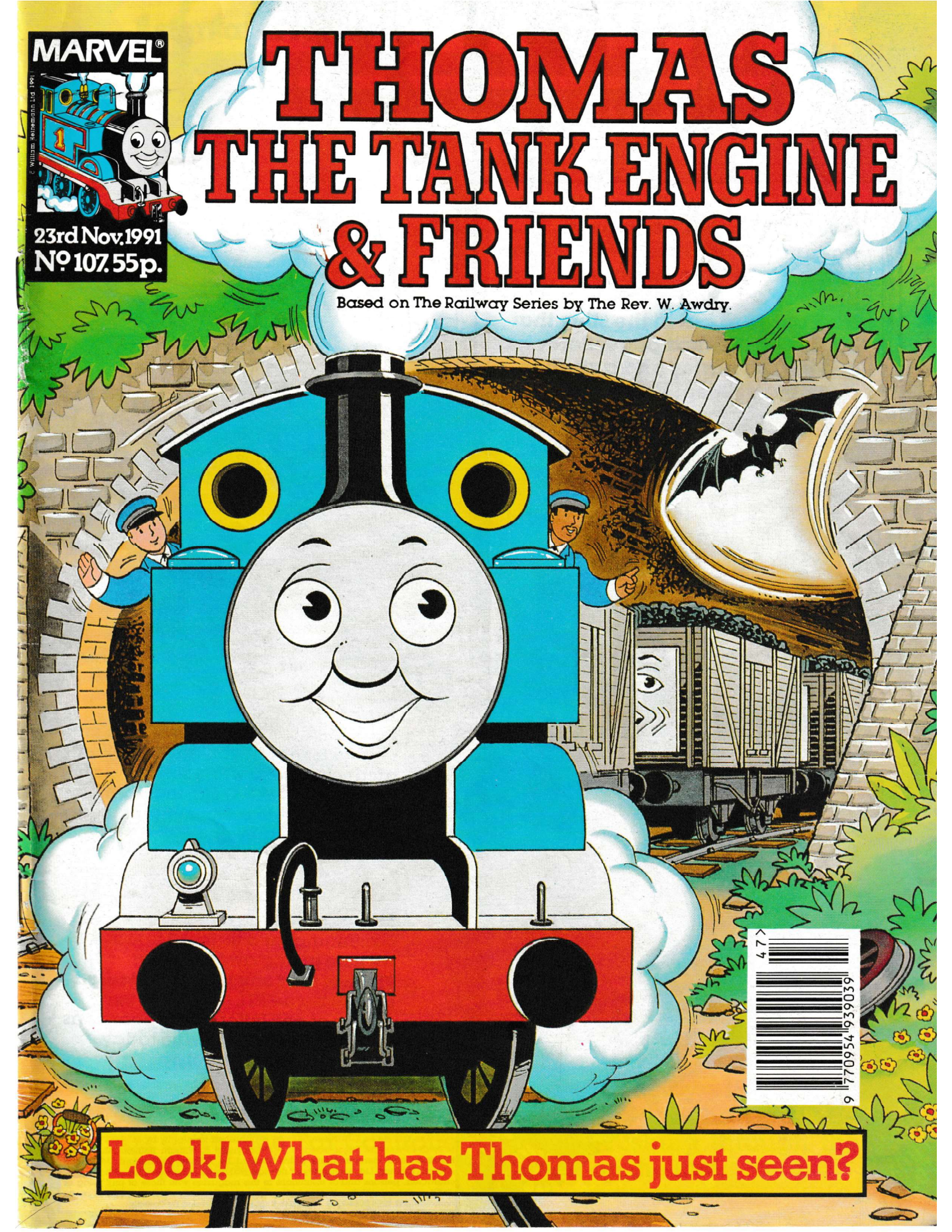
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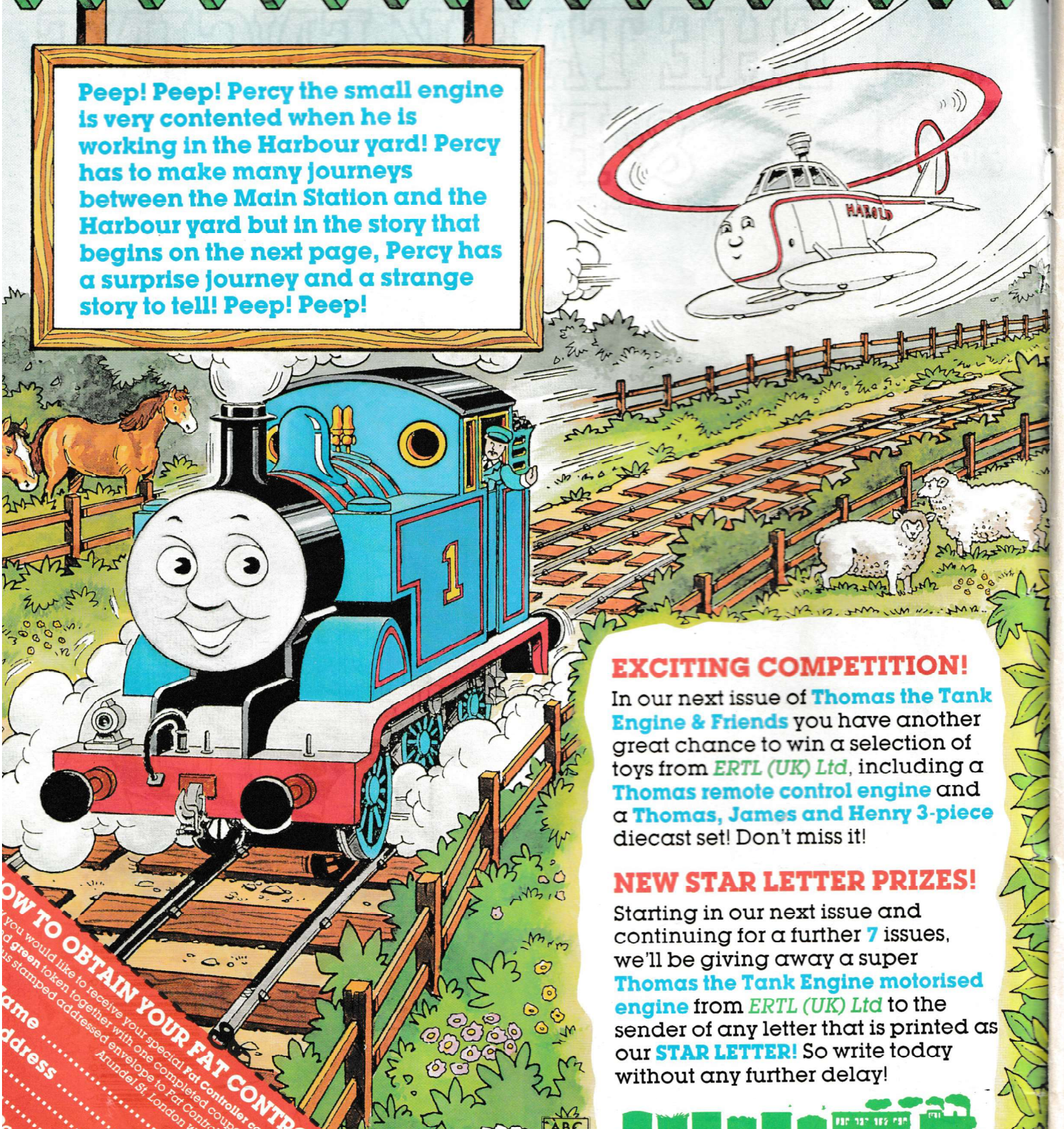
23rd Nov. 1991
Nº 107. 55p.
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.
Look! What has Thomas just seen?

# NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Percy the small engine is very contented when he is working in the Harbour yard! Percy has to make many journeys between the Main Station and the Harbour yard but in the story that begins on the next page, Percy has a surprise journey and a strange story to tell! Peep! Peep!




## EXCITING COMPETITION!

In our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** you have another great chance to win a selection of toys from *ERTL (UK) Ltd*, including a **Thomas remote control engine** and a **Thomas, James and Henry 3-piece** diecast set! Don't miss it!

## NEW STAR LETTER PRIZES!

Starting in our next issue and continuing for a further **7** issues, we'll be giving away a super **Thomas the Tank Engine motorised engine** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd* to the sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER!** So write today without any further delay!

## HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your special **Fat Controller card** just send one **red**, **yellow** and **green** token together with one completed coupon (below) listing your details plus stamped addressed envelope to Fat Controller Card, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.

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.....

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THOMAS TOKEN

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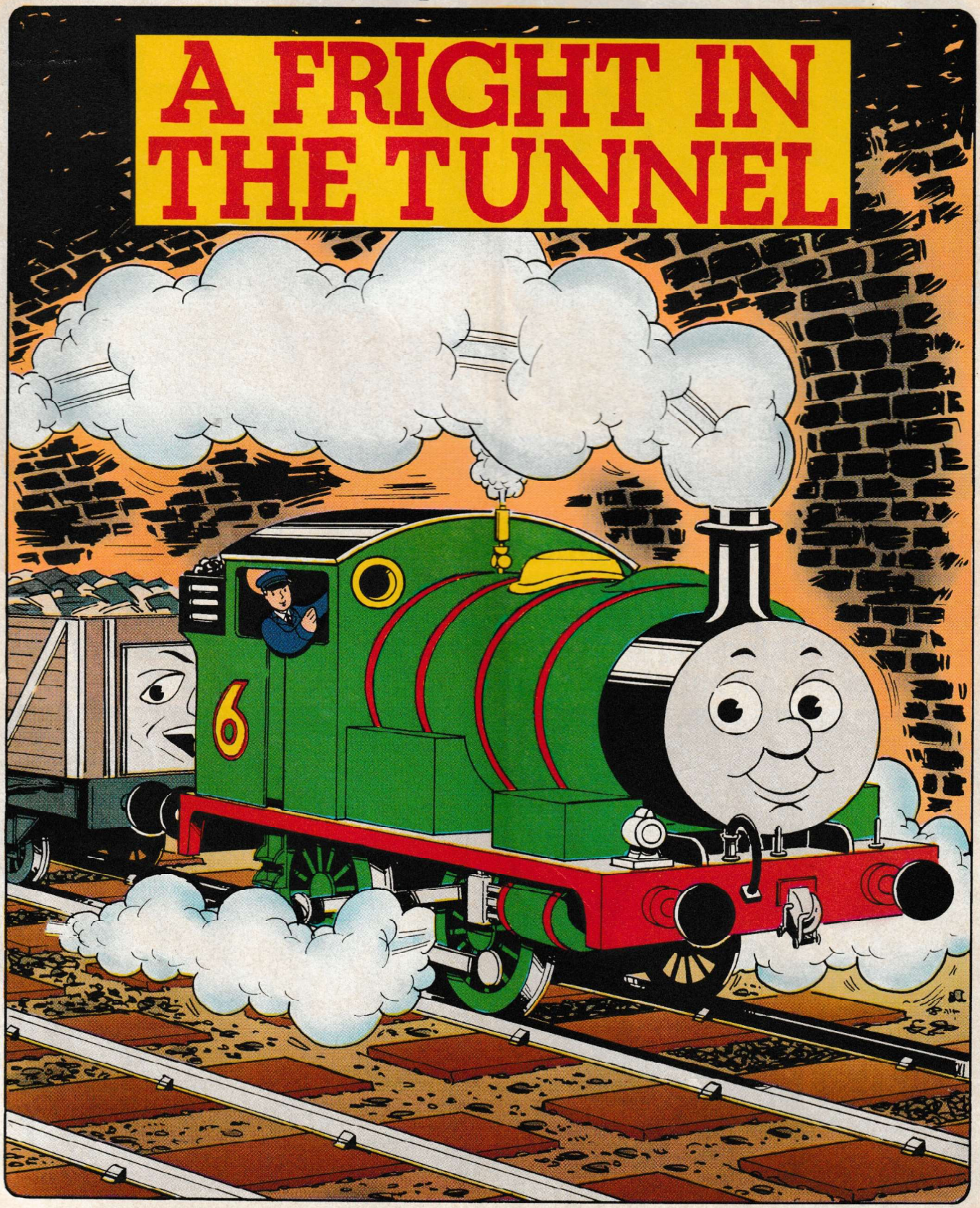
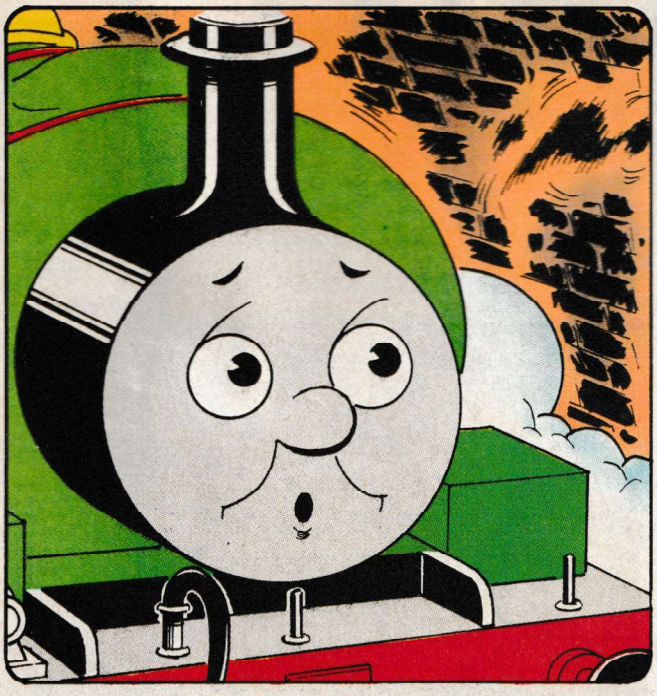
A listen and look story!

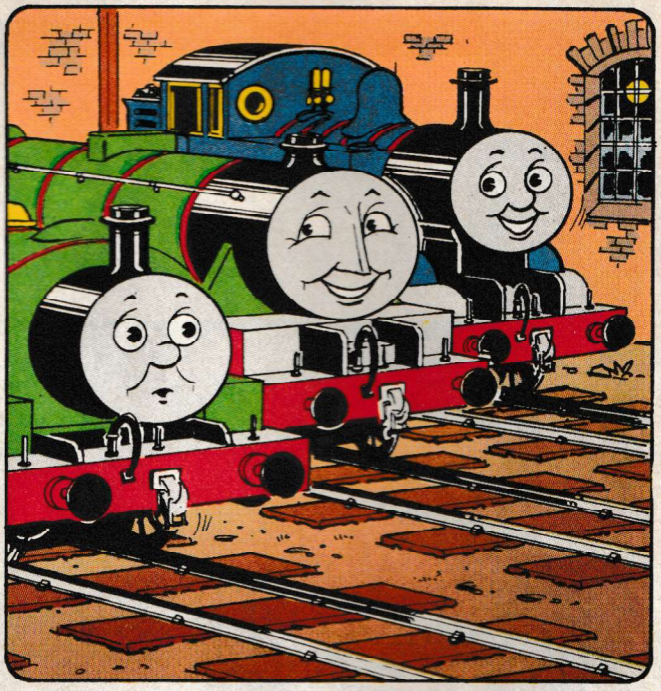



1. Percy the Small Engine was shunting in the Main Station Yard. He worked so quickly that by lunchtime all his work was done. The Fat Controller was pleased.

2. "Now you can help in the Big harbour," the Fat Controller said. Percy liked the journey to the harbour. He enjoyed rushing through the tunnels on the line.



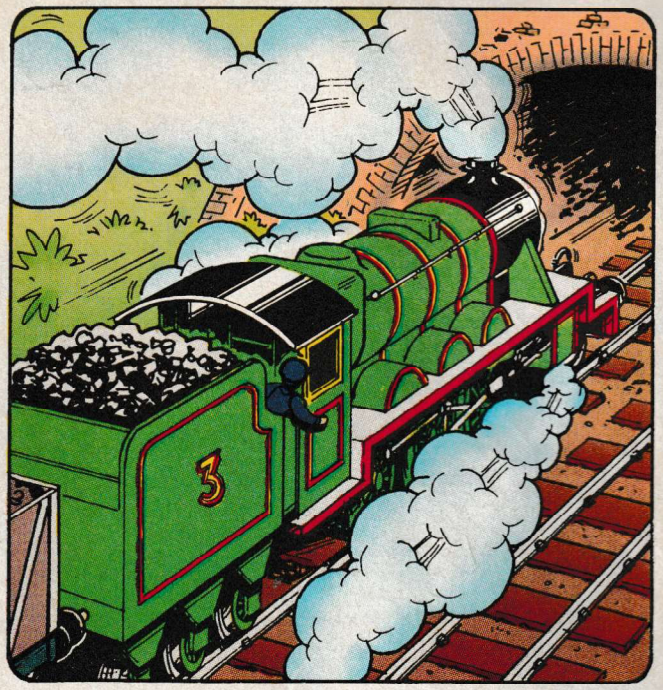
3. "Peeeeep!" whistled Percy, as he sped into a cool, dark tunnel. As he approached the far end, Percy was surprised to see something fly onto his face, right in front of him.



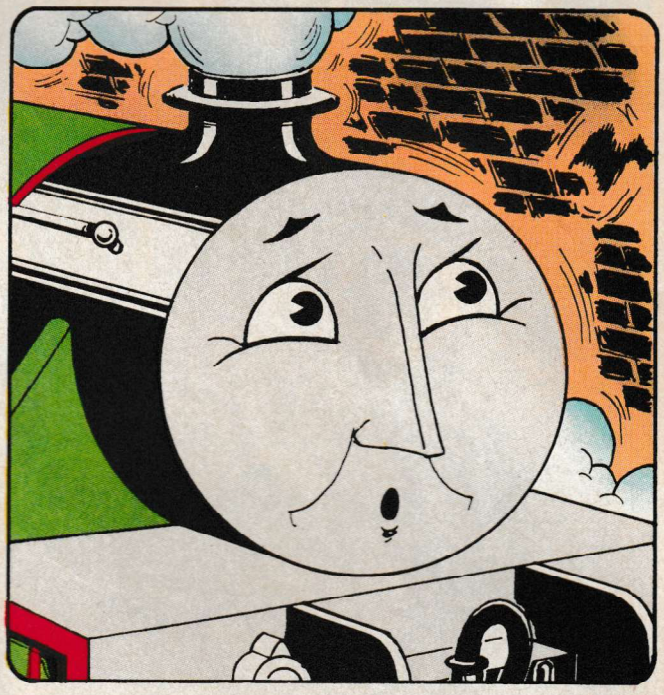
4. "What was that?" gasped Percy, as he raced ahead and left the tunnel behind him. That night, in the engine shed, he told all the other engines what had happened.

5. "What a silly story," exclaimed Thomas. "I think you're just trying to frighten us!" "No," replied Percy. "I did see something in the tunnel. My driver saw it too!"

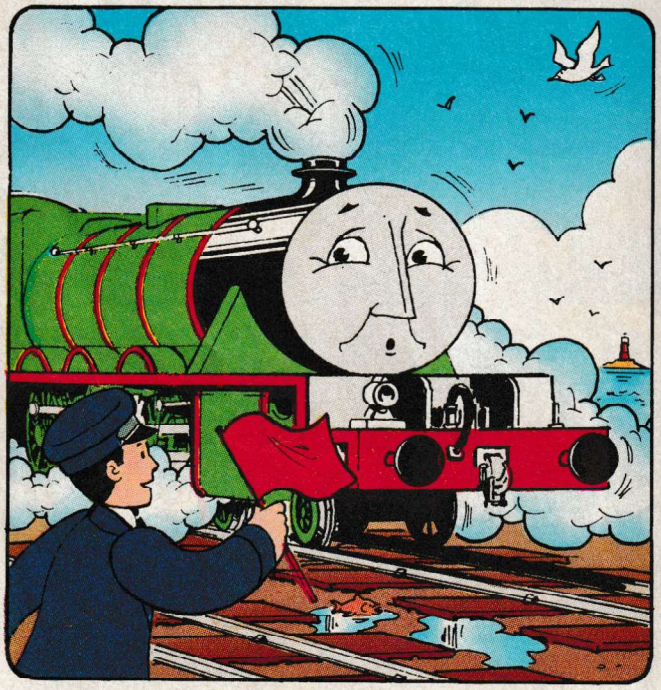
6. None of the engines believed Percy. "I've never had anything brush past me in a tunnel," laughed Henry. "Well, it's true," muttered Percy.




7. Next morning, Henry was pulling a goods train on the main line to the harbour. When he came to the tunnel, he blew his whistle just as Percy had done.



8. "I'm not frightened," thought Henry, as he rushed confidently into the tunnel. Imagine Henry's surprise when something small and dark flew right past him.



9. "Ashes and cinders!" cried Henry in surprise. He raced out of the tunnel and sped along the line so quickly that he reached the Big Harbour ahead of schedule.

10. Henry met Thomas at the harbour. Thomas was collecting coal trucks. "Percy was quite right!" Henry spluttered. "I saw something in the tunnel as well, Thomas!"

11. It was soon time for Thomas to set off. He had to go through the strange tunnel too! "Peep! Peep! I'm not frightened!" whistled Thomas. "I think Percy and Henry are imagining things!" Thomas said to his driver. But before his driver could reply, something flew in front of them, out of the tunnel and hung upside-down on the branch of a tree.

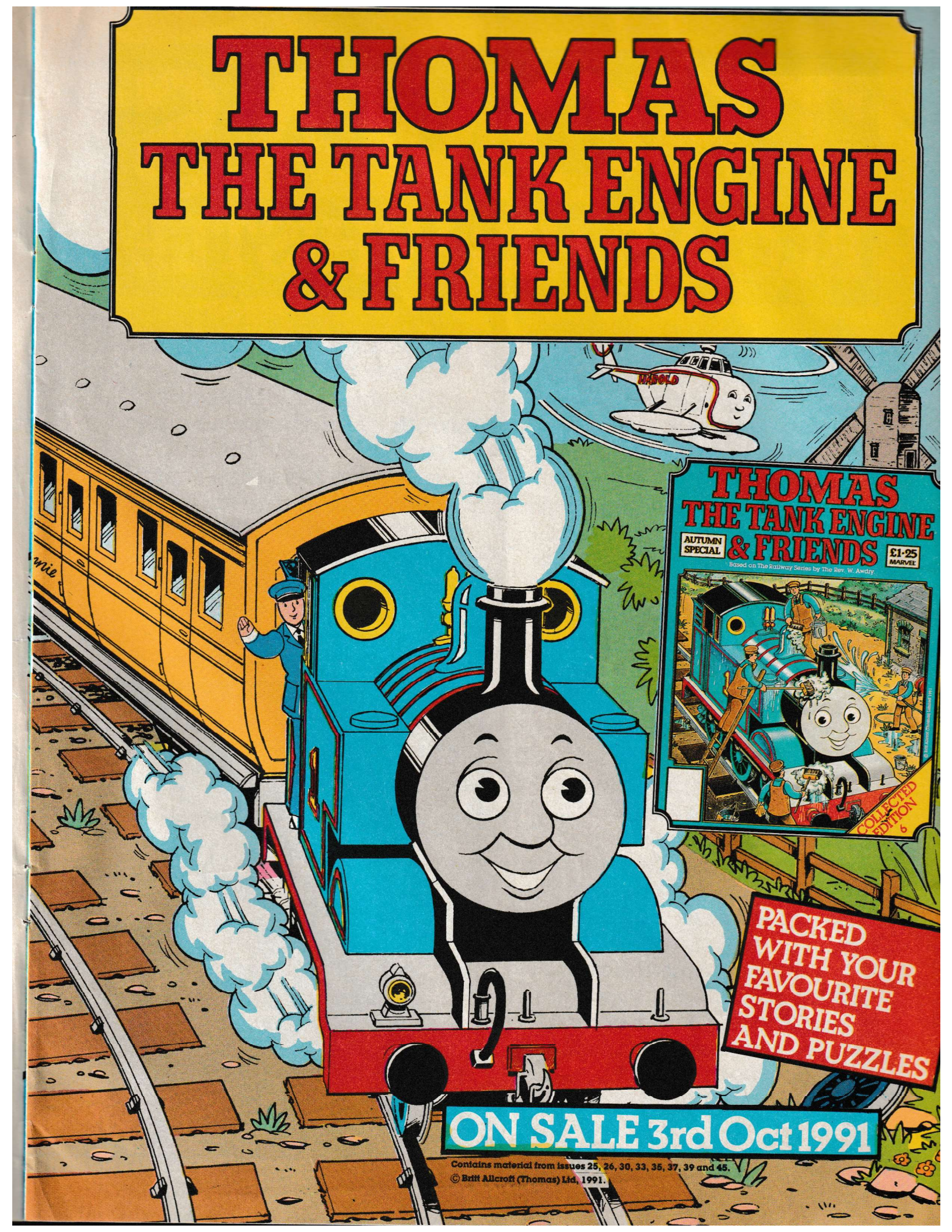
12. "It's a little bat!" said Thomas's driver. "It must live inside the tunnel. Bats like dark places and they hang upside-down to sleep! All of the engines' whistles must have woken this bat!" Back at the station yard, Thomas told Percy and Henry all about the bat. "We must remember to go through the tunnel more quietly in future!" the engines agreed.

THE END



**In our next issue: Picnic Surprise!**

# THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS




Contains material from issues 25, 26, 30, 33, 35, 37, 39 and 45.

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A read-aloud story!

# THOMAS BLOWS HIS WHISTLE

Like his many friends, Thomas enjoyed puffing through the fields, on the Island of Sodor. There was always something different to see, sometimes fields of swaying corn, sometimes cows and sheep. Best of all, was when Farmer Johnson drove his tractor backwards and forwards, ploughing long straight furrows.

So, when the Fat Controller decided that Thomas would be sent to fetch Farmer Johnson's sugar beet, it was almost like telling Thomas to go on holiday.

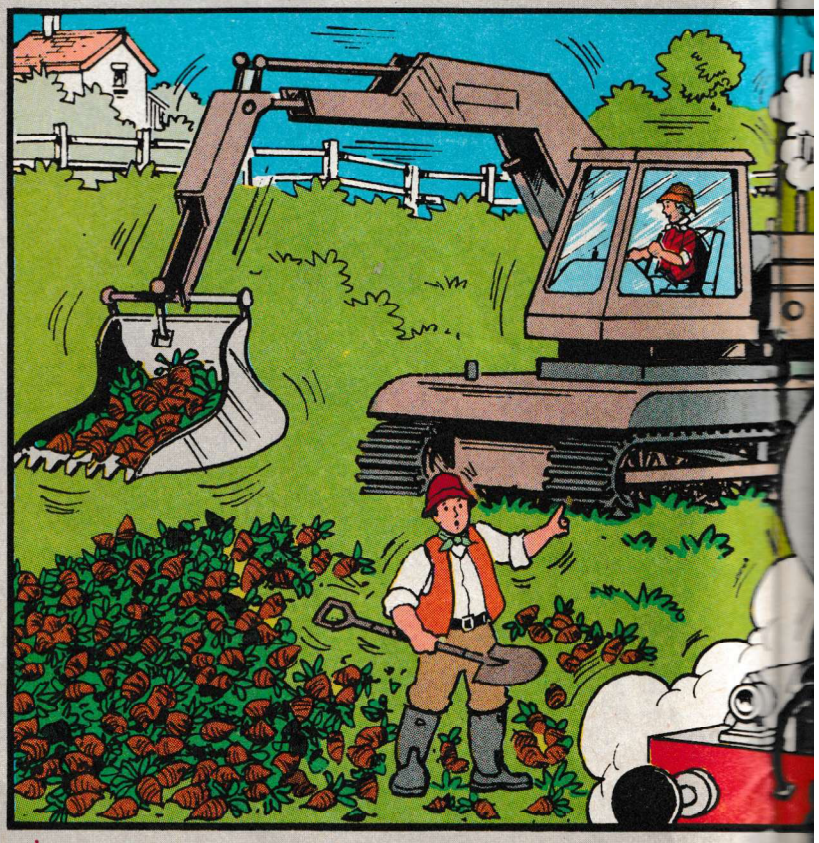
"I'm sorry you can't come too," Thomas said to his carriages Annie and Clarabel, "but you wouldn't like being filled up with sugar beet, would you?"

Annie and Clarabel had to agree. They were less disappointed when Thomas promised to tell them all about his day, when he came back to the yard.

After he had been coupled up to three rather troublesome trucks, Thomas chuffed away, eager to arrive at Farmer Johnson's farm. Behind him, the empty trucks bounced and giggled.

"What a nice day! What a nice day!" they sang.

All this clattering on the track disturbed a field of black and white cows, munching the green grass.



At last, Thomas arrived at the siding, close to **Farmer** Johnson's farm. Waiting beside the track was a mechanical shovel and a huge pile of sugar beet.

"We'll soon have you loaded up, Thomas," said **Farmer** Johnson. But Thomas was in no hurry, he was more than happy to be out in the fresh air. One by one, Thomas's trucks were filled by the mechanical shovel.

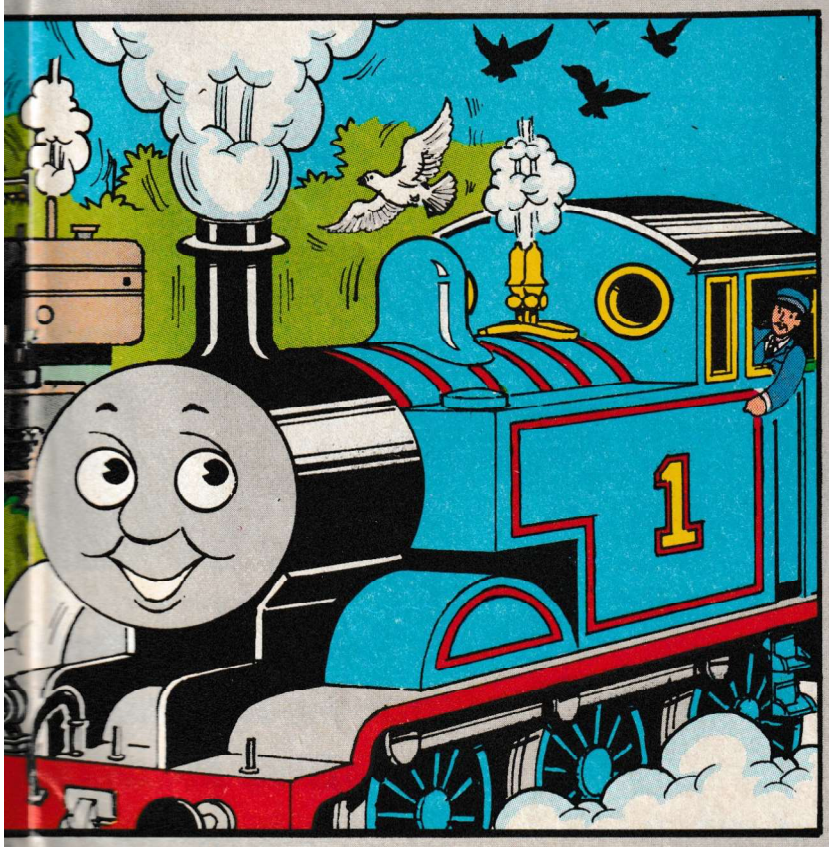
**Farmer**

"You've had a good crop," said the driver. "What will you be planting next, **Farmer** Johnson?"

**Farmer** Johnson pointed to all the pigeons perched in the trees. "Unless I stop those pigeons eating my seeds, it won't be worth planting anything," he said. Just then, a pigeon landed on Thomas's dome. It tickled so much, that Thomas had to blow his whistle, to make it fly away.

"Blow your whistle again, Thomas. Longer this time," said the driver.

"PEEP! PEEP!" went Thomas. The noise startled the other pigeons and they all flew up into the air.




"Well done, Thomas!" cried **Farmer** Johnson.

When Thomas arrived back at the yard, his driver went and told the Fat Controller what had happened.

"Whenever our engines see **Farmer** Johnson sowing his crops, they must blow their whistles," The Fat Controller instructed.

Thomas and the other engines thought this was great fun, especially as they were helping **Farmer** Johnson. As for Thomas, he did remember to tell Annie and Clarabel about his adventure on the farm.

**THE END**

# Over the sta

Can you see Thomas's friend?

What is his name?

What is he flying over?

How many horses are in the stable?

Can you see th

How many duc

How many pec

Can you see th

# ables!

the hay truck?

ucks can you count?

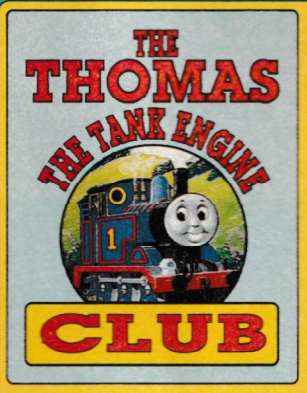
eople are in the yard?

the cat on the roof?

**Note for parents**

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

**Next issue: Into the station!**




# JUMP ON BOARD!

## and join The Thomas The Tank Engine Club

This brand new Club for all Thomas fans is full of fun, education, news and entertainment all year round.
You'll get a splendid membership pack, three more special Club packs mailed to you throughout the year and a lovely birthday card from Thomas and his friends on your birthday.

The membership pack itself contains many exciting items:

***Club Season Ticket *Club Badge *'Thomas Times' Newsletter**
***Stencil Set with Crayons *Large Activity Poster**
***A Sheet of Stickers *Stationmaster's Hat for you to make.**

Thomas and his friends want to keep you in touch with what's happening all year round so that's why you'll get three more Club mailings from them. They will all contain the latest issue of the Thomas Times, which is full of Club news, stories, letters and pictures from members, competitions, puzzles and lots more. Each mailing will also contain special offers and free Thomas Club items.

**To be a member of the Thomas Club only costs £8.95 for a full year plus £1 post and packing.**
Ask a grown up to help you fill in the application form and send it with a cheque, postal order or credit card details to **Thomas the Tank Engine Club, c/o PO BOX 96, HENLEY-ON-THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE RG9 2PQ**

Hurry up - Thomas can't wait to hear from you!

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**Please enrol me as a member of Thomas' new club**

Name _____

Date of Birth: _____ Boy/Girl (delete as appropriate)

Address _____

Town _____

County _____ Postcode _____

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £9.95 sterling, made payable to **'Thomas Club'** or I authorise you to deduct £9.95 sterling from my Visa/Mastercard.
(delete as appropriate)

Credit Card no. _____

Signature of cardholder _____

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FAT CONTROLLER WALKING FIGURE
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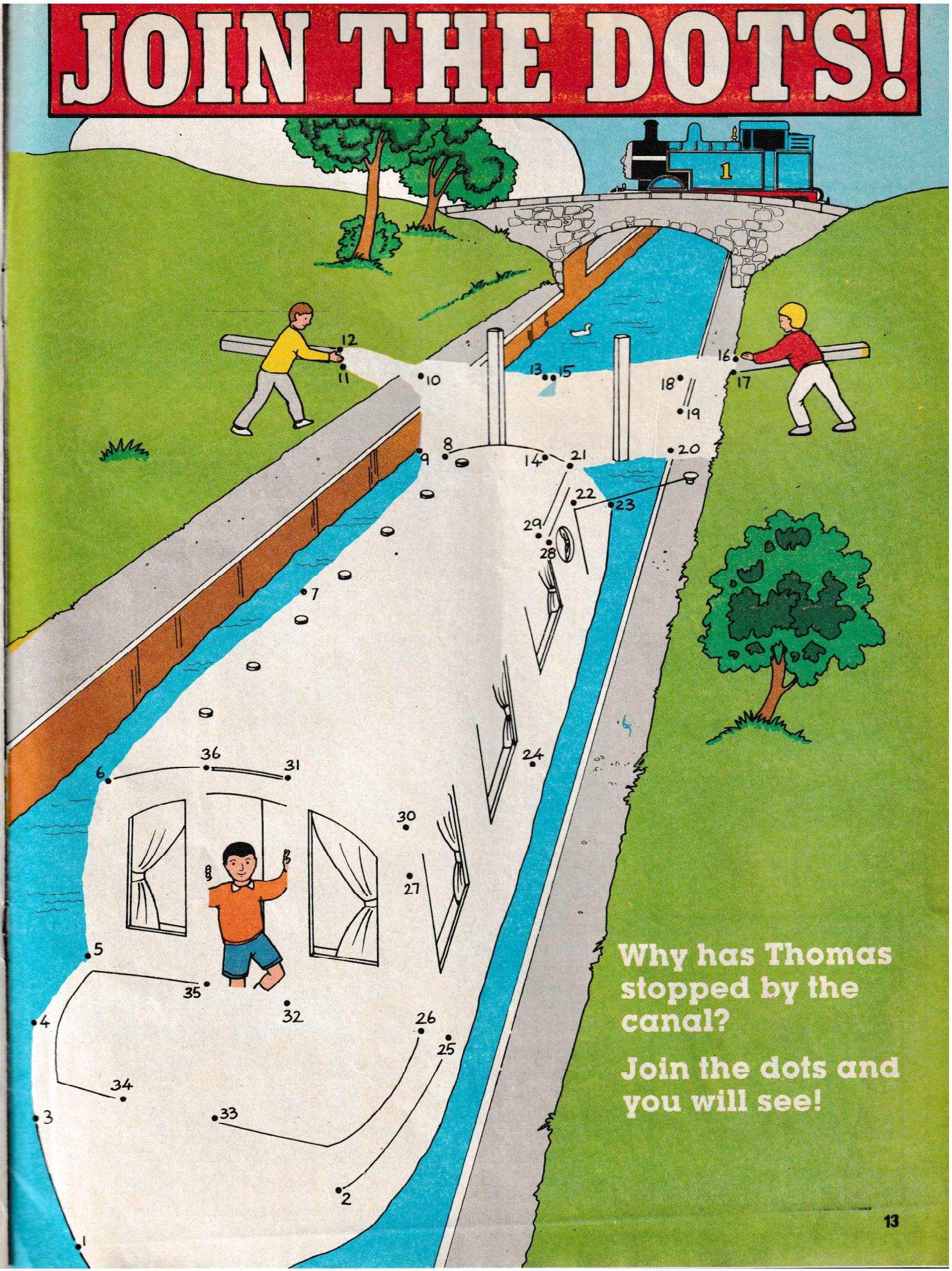
Products shown distributed in the UK by ERTL (UK) Ltd. Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry. © Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd 1991.
Not recommended for children under 36 months

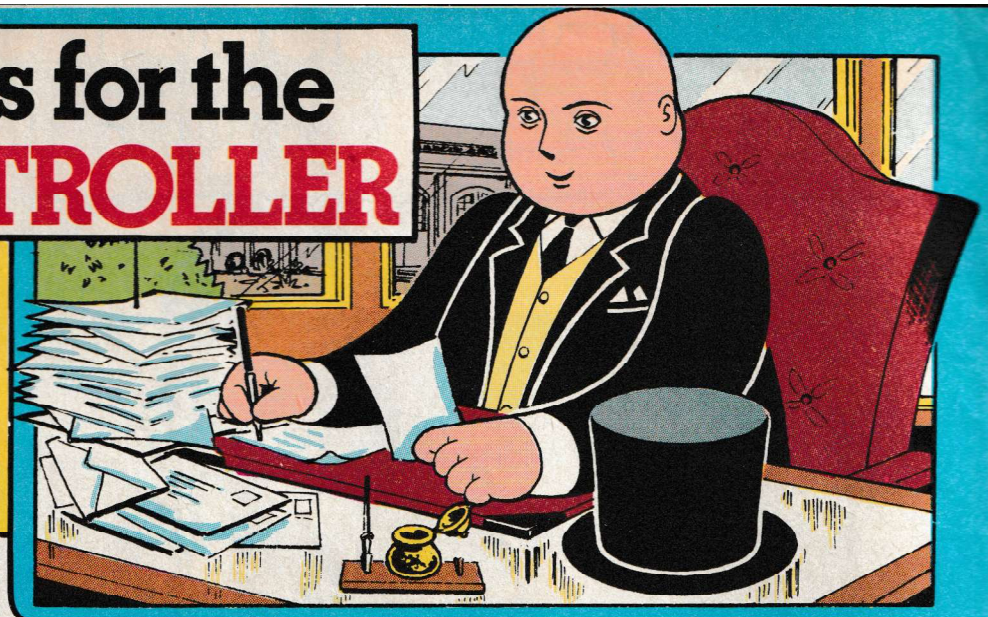
# JOIN THE DOTS!




**Why has Thomas stopped by the canal?**

**Join the dots and you will see!**

# Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



**Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!**

## STAR LETTER!

**Dear Fat Controller,**
I've got Thomas on my slippers,
And on my hat and scarf,
I've got Thomas on my bedclothes,
And on my bedroom walls,
I've got Thomas on my pyjamas,
And on my T-shirt too,
So I think you will agree I'm
His greatest fan of all!
Love from **Joel Last,**
aged 3.

*Gracious me! Your verse is splendid,*
*We wish it had never ended,*
*Your charming effort has won a prize,*
*To write again would be very wise!*

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas, James** and **Henry 3-piece diecast set** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

## HELPFUL ENGINES!

**Dear Fat Controller,**
I once read a story where Thomas was covered in coal and Percy was asked to help the guards to clear the mess! Does this happen quite often?
Love from **Daisy Browne.**

*Well, Daisy! Accidents like this can often happen on the Island of Sodor but all of my engines help each other in every way possible in an emergency.*

## RAILWAY DREAMS!

**Dear Fat Controller,**
When I was younger I used to pretend that I was a large steam engine puffing along the playground too!
Love from **Matthew Hale,**
aged 6.

*When I was a young boy I used to dream that I would be a train driver and eventually my dream came true! I never dreamt that I would be in charge of an entire railway!*

## BIRTHDAYS!

**Emyr Wilkinson, Andrew Whyberd (36698), Andrew Poole (32503), Michael James Bainbridge, thomas James Hannam (33720), Craig Anderson (32912), Jamie D. Dack (31383), Jake Matthew Slater, Ben Taylor, Robert Paul Frimson, Jack Shephard (35724), Luke Adrian Wyatt (34936), Matthew Baldock (34320), Joel Thomas, Edwin. N. Courts, Jonathan Leadbetter (36895), Luke Samuel Tweed, Jason Poole, Ashley Quinton (34415), Talan Richards, Jamie Snell (30308),**

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard or on the back of a sealed envelope at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

**Yours,**

Sir Topham Hatt

**the Fat Controller.**

**Send your letters to:**

**The Fat Controller**
**The Island of Sodor**
**c/o Marvel Comics Ltd**
**13/15 Arundel Street**
**London WC2.**

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Address .....

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Please supply me with **Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends** for a year. I will allow 42 days for delivery.

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £18.00 (UK) or £35.00 (overseas) payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.

☐ Please charge £18.00 (UK) or £35.00 (overseas) to my Visa/Master card. My card number is; (13 or 16 digits):

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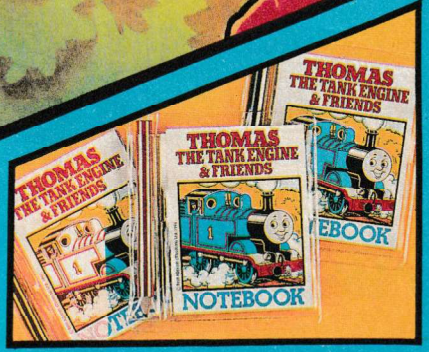
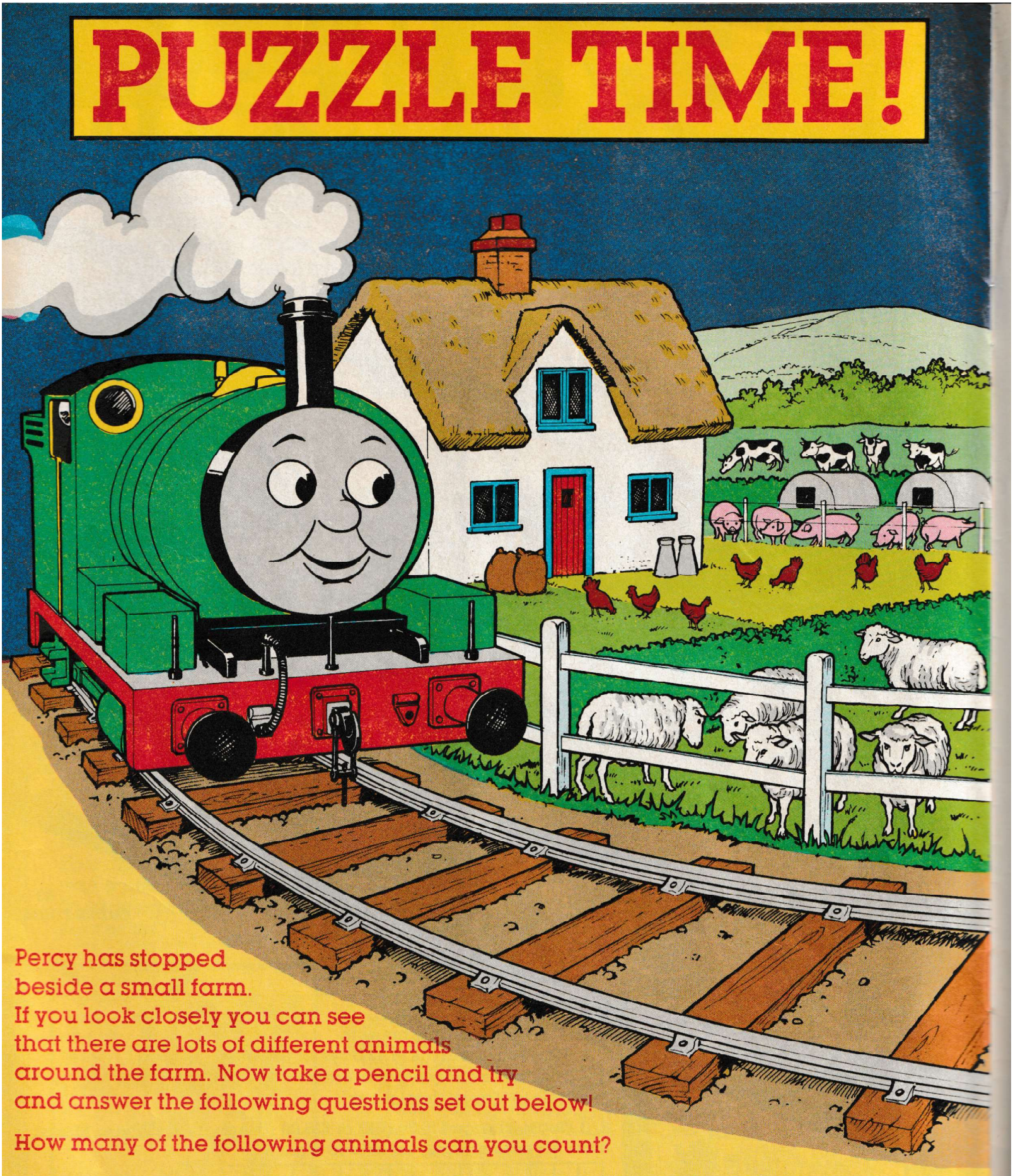
Signature ..... Expiry date .....

Return form and payment to: *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AB.*



# PUZZLE TIME!



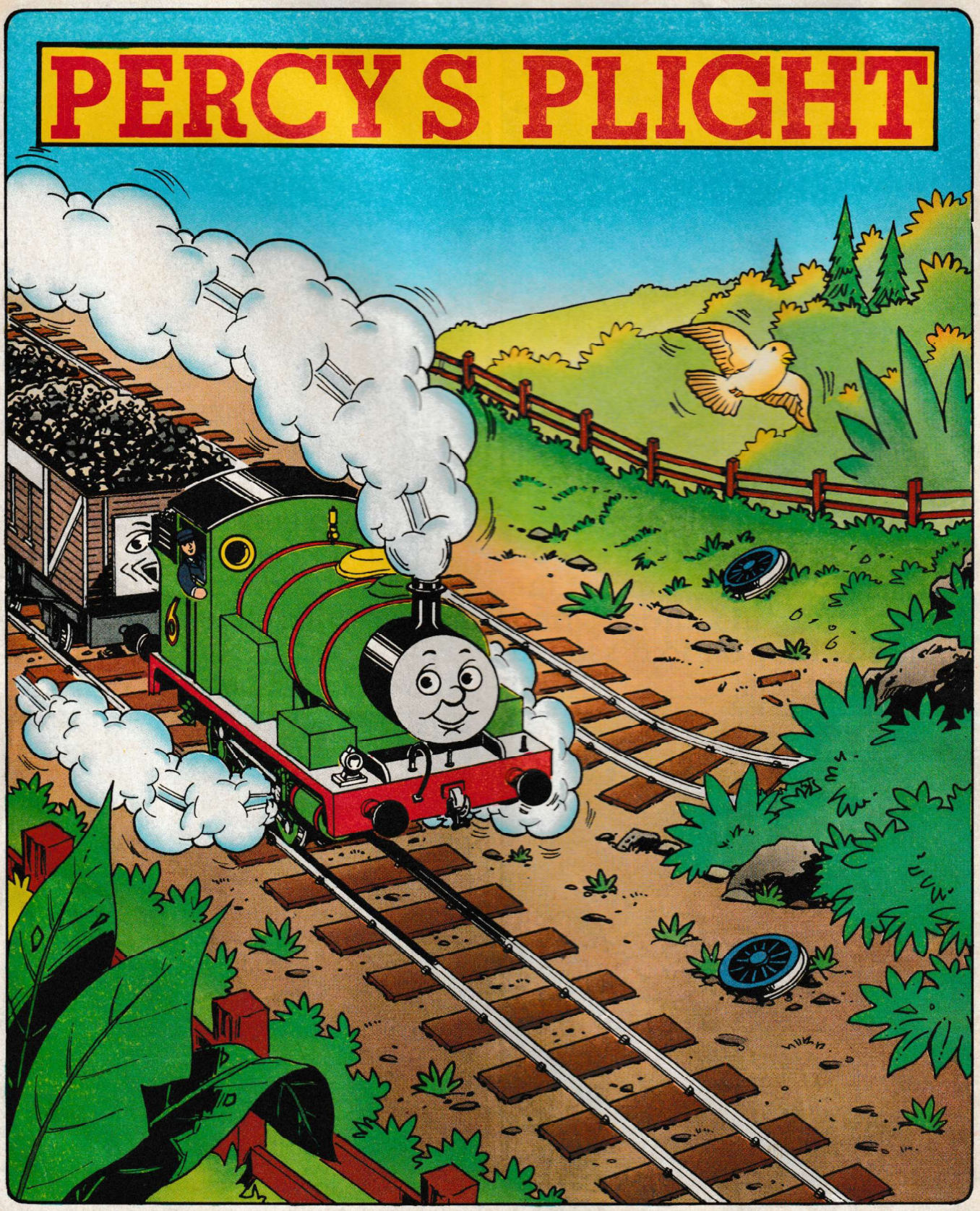
Percy has stopped
beside a small farm.
If you look closely you can see
that there are lots of different animals
around the farm. Now take a pencil and try
and answer the following questions set out below!

How many of the following animals can you count?

**SHEEP** ..... ☐ **HENS** ..... ☐

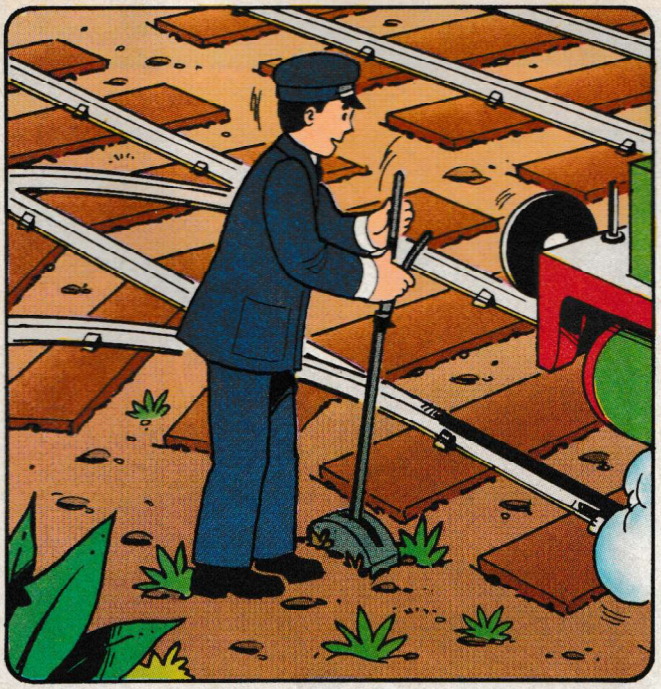
**COWS** ..... ☐ **PIGS** ..... ☐

## A listen and look story!



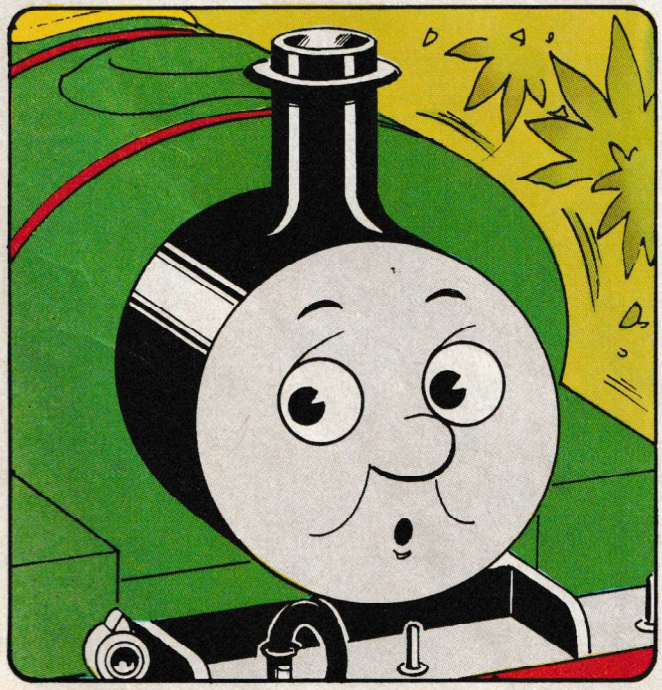

1. The Fat Controller's railway on the Island of Sodor has been in operation for many years now. Since it began, several new lines have been laid.

2. There are also many older lines that are now disused. One day, Percy the Small Engine was working quite close to one of the old disused lines.



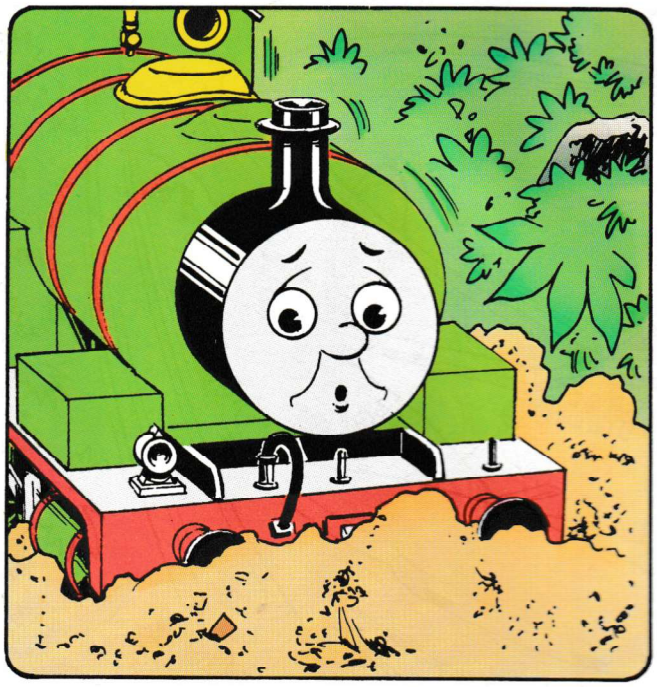
3. It was almost midday, when Percy's driver decided to stop for his lunch. He changed the points on the track and guided Percy on to a section of disused line.

4. While Percy waited for his driver to return, he gazed down at the track. "I wonder where this line leads to?" Percy was confused. He'd never seen it before!

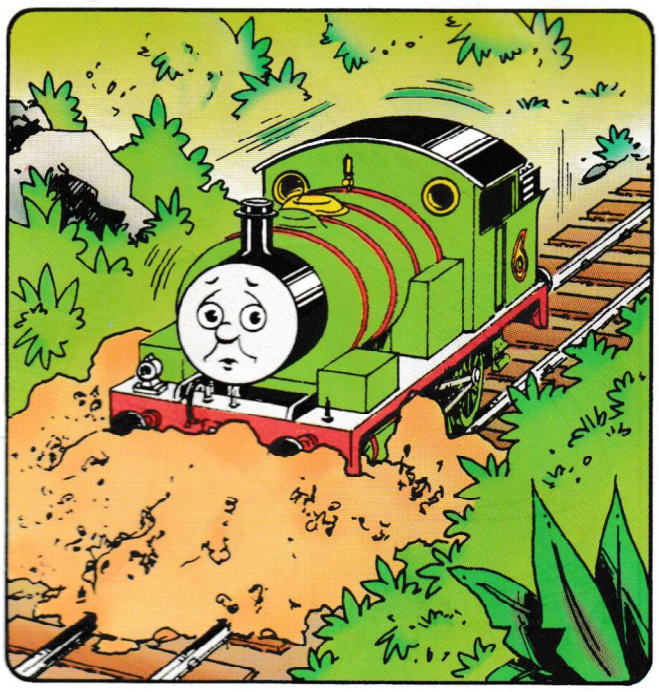


5. Just then, Percy heard a very curious sound. Click! "Whatever could that be?" he thought. Percy's driver hadn't applied the brake lever fully and it had sprung free!

6. Suddenly, Percy started to inch forwards. He desperately wanted to whistle for help, but there was no steam in his boiler and no-one to pull his whistle cord.

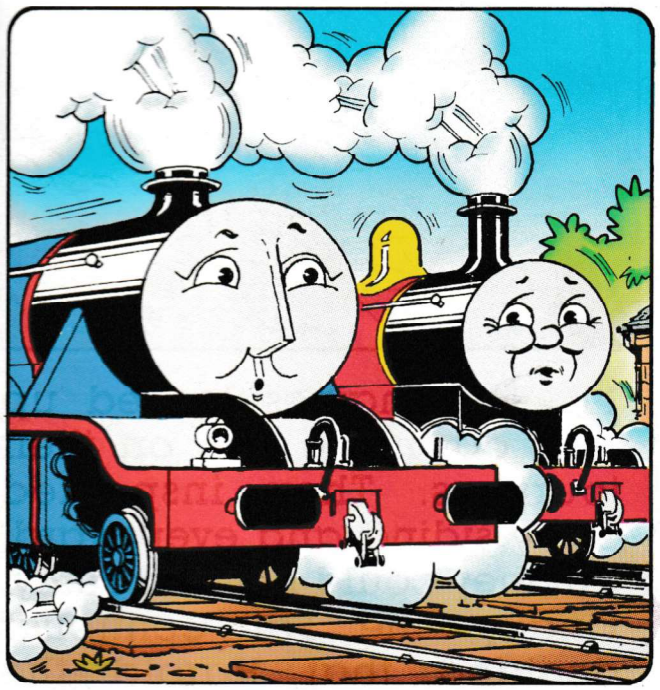


7. Percy rumbled away from the main line and disappeared behind a thicket. He eventually came to a stop when he ran into a heap of sand on the track! Whump!

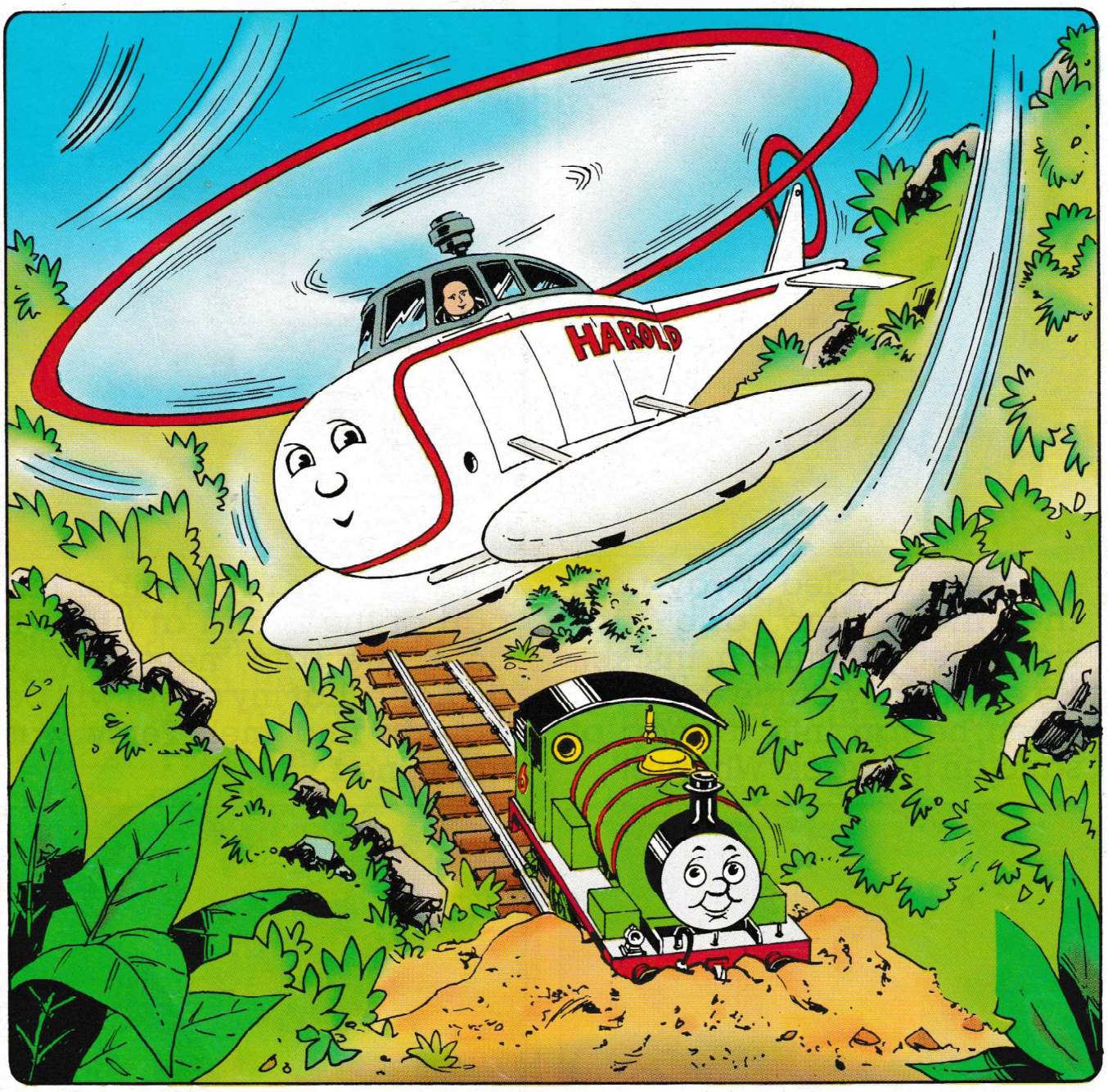


8. Percy didn't remember this part of the island at all! "Oh dear," he said, nervously. "I do hope that my driver will be able to find me!" Percy was frightened.

9. When Percy's driver returned from lunch, he could not see Percy anywhere. "The Stationmaster must have sent another driver to collect him," he thought.



10. It was not long before everyone on the railway realized that Percy was missing. "He's been stolen," said James. "Nonsense," replied Gordon. "Who would do that."?




11. The engines looked up and down the line on their journeys. They inspected every siding and every yard, but they could not find Percy. Finally, the Fat Controller decided that Harold the Helicopter must be sent for, to help with the search. Harold rose proudly into the sky and followed the track to where Percy had last been seen.

12. Meanwhile, Percy was feeling very sad after sitting alone for so long. "Oh dear," he moaned. "The Fat Controller has forgotten about me!" Just then, Harold the Helicopter appeared. "Look!" he called, excitedly. "We've found Percy!" Percy was relieved, he should have known better than to think his good friends would have forgotten him!

**THE END**



**In our next issue: Lost and Found!**